

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 04237 140945Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1549

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FROM: THE AMBASSADOR

E.O.: 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, APER, SA, US
SUBJ: VACANCIES AND REPLACEMENTS

REF : STATE 138169

1. I HAVE STATED BEFORE, BUT BELIEVE IT IS SELF-EVIDENT, THAT THERE ARE FEW ECONOMIC POSITIONS ANY PLACE AS IMPORTANT AS THE ECONOMIC/COUNSELOR IN SAUDI ARABIA (OR ECONOMIC MINISTER WHEN THE POST IS RAISED TO CLASS I). COMPETENT FSO-2'S SHOULD BE QUEING UP FOR THE JOB.

2. DHAHRAN WILL BE THE CENTER FOR SAUDI ARABIA'S \$100 BILLION INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRAM AND THE POST IS ALREADY INCREASING IN IMPORTANCE. WE HAVE 10,000 AMERICANS IN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT NOW. THE PETROLEUM MINISTER HAS TOLD ME HE EXPECTS THE INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRAM TO BRING 35,000 AMERICAN WORKERS TO SAUDI ARABIA IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. WITH FAMILIES, THIS WILL BE OVER 100,000 AMERICANS. MOST OF THEM WILL BE IN THE DHAHRAN CONSULAR DISTRICT. AND THE CONGEN WOULD BY MAYOR.

3. YOU ARE RIGHT, WE ARE INTERESTED MORE IN "ENERGETIC, FACILE, MOBILE REPORTERS" (WITH ARABIC IF POSSIBLE) THAN IN RANK, PER SE. AND WE HAVE NEVER INSISTED THAT THEY BE DRAWN FROM THE ECONOMIC CONE. BUT WE ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN EXPERIENCE AND MATURITY. YOUTH IS NOT RPT

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NOT AN ADVANTAGE IN SAUDI ARABIA.

4. WHILE I WOULD NOT OBJECT TO FSO-3 PARAGONS IN DHAHRAN
OR PERHAPS EVEN IN JIDDA, I WOULD HOPE THAT THE SEARCH
FOR BOTH JOBS COULD BE EXTENDED UPWARD, I.E. TO THE
FSO-1 LEVEL.

5. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BOTH JOBS, ESPECIALLY THE JIDDA
ONE, BE FILLED SOON. BAHTI IS WILLING TO STAY ON (ALTHOUGH
HE NATURALLY DOESN'T WANT AN OPEN-ENDED EXTENSION) BUT
BIRD WILL DEFINITELY BE LEAVING IN AUGUST.

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